

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., a member of the House Appropriations Committee, announced the House has passed the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill for FY 2006 by a vote of 416 to 13.

"I voted to support this bill because it includes projects essential to continue the improvement of my district's water infrastructure. These funds will not only strengthen economic growth around waterways, but also help prevent flooding and greatly improve water quality," Jackson said. "These projects are essential to communities and will greatly enhance the quality of life for Chicago area residents."

The bill must now be approved by the Senate. It will then go to a House-Senate conference committee where final agreement will be reached before going to the President for his signature.

The bill includes the following requests made by Congressman Jackson:

\*\$25 million to continue work on the "Deep Tunnel" project, including construction of the McCook and Thornton reservoirs located in Chicago's south suburbs;

\*\$2.9 million for the Calumet Harbor and River project which consists of two miles of breakwater, 12 miles of channel improvements, three turning basins, a confined disposal facility, boat shed facility, and a stone dock;

\*\$500,000 toward the environmental infrastructure needs in Cook County including development and protection of water supply systems, combined sewer overflows, and remediation of adverse water quality impacts and storm water impacts to waste water systems;

\*\$500,000 for the University of Chicago's hospitals and clinics to provide for the renovation and expansion of their emergency room.

Over the past five years, Jackson has helped secure more than \$93 million for the Deep Tunnel Project, the comprehensive Chicago Underflow Plan designed to improve flood protection and improve water quality for the metropolitan area.

The bill also includes \$15 million for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue work on the Chicago Shoreline Protection Program, which will provide storm damage protection to the Lake Michigan shoreline in Chicago.